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June 21, 2005

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Mr. Charles L.A. Terreni, Esq.
Chief Clerk and Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: Application for Approval of Alternative Regulation Plan
McClellanville Telephone Company, Inc., Norway Telephone Company, Inc., St.
Stephen Telephone Company, Inc., Williston Telephone Company, Inc.
Docket No. 2005-130-C

Dear Mr. Terreni:

Enclosed for filing, please find an original and ten (10) copies of a Proposed Order in the above-referenced matter. By copy of this letter and Certificate of Service, I am serving the Office of Regulatory Staff and the Commission Legal Staff with a copy of this Proposed Order via U.S. Mail.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

RICHARDSON, PLOWDEN, CARPENTER & ROBINSON, P.A.

With Best Regards,

Steven W. Hamm

SWH/jkc

cc: ORS, PSC Legal Staff, Jim Meade

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BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2005-130-C

McClellanville Telephone Company, Inc. and)	
Norway Telephone Company, Inc. and)	
St. Stephen Telephone Company, Inc. and)	
Williston Telephone Company, Inc.)	PROPOSED ORDER
Notice of Election of Alternative Regulation Plan)	
_____)	

This matter comes before the South Carolina Public Service Commission (“Commission”) upon the filing of an Election of Alternative Regulation Plan (the “Plan”) by McClellanville Telephone Company, Inc., Norway Telephone Company, Inc., St. Stephen Telephone Company, Inc., and Williston Telephone Company, Inc. (collectively the “TDS Companies”), pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576.

S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(A) provides in part:

Any LEC may elect to have rates, terms, and conditions determined pursuant to the plan described in subsection (B), if the commission: (1) has approved a local interconnection agreement in which the LEC is a participant with an entity determined by the commission not to be affiliated with the LEC, (2) determines that another provider’s service competes with the LEC’s basic local exchange telephone service, or (3) determines that at least two wireless providers have coverage generally available in the LEC’s service area and that the providers are not affiliates of the LEC.

On April 28, 2005, the TDS Companies filed a Notice of Election of Alternative Regulation. Accompanying the Notice of Election and Plan were the affidavits of Scott Baxter, with attachments as described below.

According to the Plan, there are at least two wireless service providers with coverage generally available in the service area of the TDS Companies that are not affiliated with any of the TDS Companies. Therefore, the TDS Companies elected to have the rates, terms, and conditions of their services determined pursuant to the Plan, which they assert conforms within the plan referenced in S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B). Specifically, the TDS Companies state that each of the following wireless companies, none of which is affiliated with any of the TDS Companies, has wireless coverage advertised and available in the TDS Companies' service areas: ALLTEL Communications, Inc. ("ALLTEL"), Nextel South Corp. ("Nextel"), Sprint Spectrum, LP, d/b/a Sprint PCS ("Sprint PCS"), Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless ("Verizon").

Along with the Notice of Election and Plan, the TDS Companies filed the Affidavits of Scott Baxter, an independent party who is an expert technical consultant on wireless network design and performance optimization. In his Affidavits, Mr. Baxter verifies that at least two wireless providers, namely ALLTEL and Verizon, have coverage generally available in the TDS Companies' service areas and that the wireless providers are not affiliates of the TDS Companies. Mr. Baxter explained the methodology of drive tests that he personally conducted in the TDS Companies' service area for three wireless companies – ALLTEL, Verizon, and Sprint PCS. According to Mr. Baxter's Affidavit, and as shown on the coverage maps prepared by Mr. Baxter, the results of the drive tests demonstrate that ALLTEL and Verizon have generally available coverage and a good quality of service throughout the TDS Companies' service areas.

Pursuant to a directive from the Commission, notice of the filing of the Plan was published in newspapers of general circulation in the affected areas on May 16 and May 18, 2005. No interventions or comments were submitted by any customer or entity in response to

the notice. The Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) is a party to this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-4-10(B). On May 26, 2005, ORS filed a letter with the Commission stating that ORS had reviewed the documentation provided by the TDS Companies and in addition, had independently reviewed coverage information produced by ALLTEL and Verizon. The reviewed information confirms the general availability of non-affiliated cellular service in the TDS Companies’ service area. The letter concluded by stating that ORS found no evidence to contradict the statements made by Mr. Baxter through his Affidavit and made no request for a hearing or for any further review.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. This Commission has the authority, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(A), in the absence of an approved local interconnection agreement, to make a determination as to whether the TDS Companies meet the requirements of either S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(A)(2) or (A)(3) so as to enable the TDS Companies to elect alternative regulation under S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576.

2. This Commission also has the authority and obligation to review the Plan submitted by the TDS Companies to ensure that it conforms to the requirements of the alternative regulation plan described in S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B).

3. The TDS Companies have furnished the necessary information for the Commission to make a determination regarding whether the TDS Companies meet the requirements of either S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(A)(2) or (A)(3) so as to entitle the TDS Companies to elect alternative regulation under S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576.

4. We find, based on the evidence submitted by the TDS Companies in the form of the sworn Affidavits of Scott Baxter and accompanying exhibits, that at least two wireless providers have coverage generally available in the TDS Companies' service areas and that the providers are not affiliates of the LECs. Thus, we find that the TDS Companies have met the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(A)(3).

5. The TDS Companies have met the requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(A) and, therefore, may elect to have rates, terms, and conditions determined pursuant to an alternative regulation plan as described in S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B).

6. We have reviewed the Plan proposed by the TDS Companies and find that it conforms to the provisions of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B).

7. Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B)(1), the Plan "becomes effective on the date specified by the electing LECs, but in no event sooner than thirty days after the notice is filed with the commission." The TDS Companies specified that the effective date of the Plan is May 30, 2005.

8. A copy of the Plan is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Alternative Regulation Plan filed by the TDS Companies, and attached hereto, is effective as of May 30, 2005.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Chief Clerk/Administrator

(SEAL)

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2005-130-C

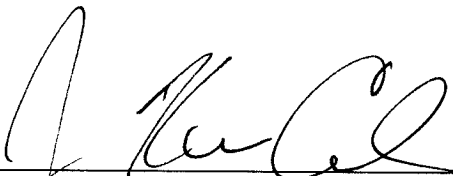
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Notice of Election of Alternative Regulation Plan)
_____)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, J. Kevin Couch, Clerk for Richardson, Plowden, Carpenter & Robinson, P.A., do hereby certify that I have this date served one (1) copy of the Proposed Order in the above-referenced matter on the following parties of record by causing said copy to be deposited with the United States Mail, first class postage paid, affixed thereto and addressed as follows:

F. David Butler, Esquire
South Carolina Public Service Commission
Post Office Box 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Florence P. Belser, Esquire
Office of Regulatory Staff
Post Office Box 11263
Columbia, South Carolina 29211



J. Kevin Couch
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1600 Marion Street
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June 21, 2005